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COBGDB - The GnuCOBOL TUI DEBUGGER / ANIMATOR

HOW TO USE COBGDB



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1. Introduction

COBGDB is a TUI (Text User Interface) application, programmed in C, designed to assist in animate and debugging GnuCOBOL TUI code **using GDB**.

The project is hosted at https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb

Very important: you don't need to know GDB and all its many commands
(https://www.sourceware.org/gdb/).

COBGDB has its own interface that is very simple to use
and is responsible for interfacing the underlying GDB which is the real debug and animate engine
but operates practically in a transparent and invisible way for the user.

The COBGDB application is based on the extension for Visual Studio Code (VSCode) created by Oleg Kunitsyn, which can be found on GitHub: https://github.com/OlegKunitsyn/gnucobol-debug. warning: COBGDB is still currently under development.

At https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb in the Windows subdirectory, the executable program cobgdb.exe for this operating system is available and ready to use.

To compile COBGDB from C source code on Windows, you can use MinGW.

The Makefile is configured to generate the program cobgdb.exe for both Windows and Linux.

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1.1. Installing the debugger on Windows

On Windows, just download cobgdb.exe from following folder: https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb/tree/main/windows.

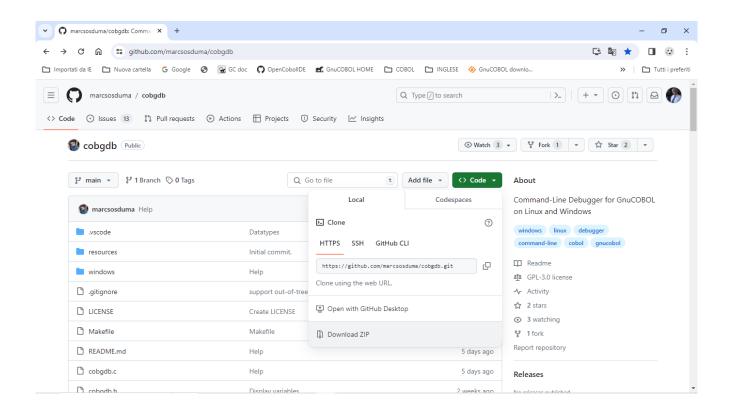
As an example you can put cobgdb.exe into the "bin" folder of your GnuCOBOL installation (the same folder where the GnuCOBOL compiler cobc.exe is located)

or

first install MinGW (Minimalist GNU for Windows).

Then execute the make ('mingw32-make' for Windows) command to compile the code from C source.

Then unzip the file and copy cobgdb.exe to the "bin" folder of your GnuCOBOL installation (the same folder where the GnuCOBOL compiler cobc.exe is located)



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1.2. Compile and Debug GnuCOBOL programs

Compile and run a debugging session of the sample program using the following command:

cobgdb customer.cob -x -lpdcurses

Source code of customer.cob used also for following tutorial is at: https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb/tree/main/windows

Note: '-lpdcurses' is an instance of an argument that can be indirectly passed to 'cobc' by 'cobgdb,' even if it is not used by 'cobgdb' itself.

or, other example for cobc parameters, use: cobgdb customer.cob -x -Tcustomer.txt .(-T creates a compilation list output into customer.txt file)

COBGDB takes one or more programs with COB or CBL extension as parameters and runs the GnuCOBOL compiler with the following format:

```
cobc -g -fsource-location -ftraceall -v -free -00 -x prog.cob prog2.cob ...
```

To debug multiple programs, use COBGDB with the following syntax:

cobgdb prog.cob subprog1.cob subprog2.cob . . .

This will create a single prog.exe executable.

You can run GDB/GDBSERVER remotely using the "A" (Attach) key.

COBGDB will prompt you to provide the server and port in the format server: port or the PID of the application.

Example:

- localhost: 5555
- 9112

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1.3. Main Commands

Cmd		Description		
?	Help	Show the HELP window and text		
В	B Breakpoint Toggle (Set or Unset) a breakpoint at a specific line of the Procedure Division cod			
R	Run Runs the program from the first Cobol statement until a breakpoint is encountered Always use this command to start a debugging session.			
С	Cursor	Runs the program until it reaches the selected line.		
N	Next	Runs the program until the next line but does not enter a subroutine executed by CALL or PERFORM.		
S	Step	Runs the program until the next line. If needed it enter a subroutine executed by CALL or PERFORM.		
G				
J	Jump	Ask for a line number and Runs the program until it reaches that line.		
V	Variables	Displays a new window with the set of variables for the running program. From this window you can also change the value of variables		
Н	sHow	Shows a window with the values of variables on the selected line.		
F	File	When cobgdb is executed with more than one program, allows selecting one of those source file for debugging commands.		
Α	Attach	Attach to GDBSERVER or Application PID.		
Q	Quit	Quits (Ends) the debugging session and the program.		

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2. Tutorial - Sample Debugging Session

Following tutorial is on a Windows 10 platform using follwing version of GnuCOBOL:

```
cobc (GnuCOBOL) 3.2.0

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This is free software; see the source for copying conditions. There is NO

warranty; not even for MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

Written by Keisuke Nishida, Roger While, Ron Norman, Simon Sobisch, Edward Hart

Built Jul 28 2023 16:07:38

Packaged Jul 28 2023 16:58:47 UTC

C version (MinGW) "13.1.0"
```

Downloaded from https://www.arnoldtrembley.com/GnuCOBOL.htm

```
===== Version 3.2 =====
```

GnuCOBOL 3.2 (28Jul2023) MSYS2 64-bit <u>GC32M-BDB-x64.7z</u> -- MSYS2 64-bit GnuCOBOL 3.2 Final release **with full debugging support**. (95.4 Megabytes).

GnuCOBOL 3.2 (28Jul2023) MSYS2 32-bit GC32M-BDB-x32.7z -- MSYS2 32-bit GnuCOBOL 3.2 Final release with full debugging support. (96.1 Megabytes).

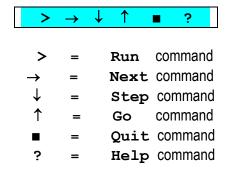
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After executing **cobgdb customer.cob** -x -lpdcurses the application automatically insert a Breakpoint at first executable program statement of PROCEDURE DIVISON (see the symbol at left of line 103 in this sample) and displays following screen:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
COBGDB
                             GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
 100
                        10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 101
 102
 103
 104
                                        COB_SCREEN_EXCEP
                                        COB_SCREEN_ESC'
ESCDELAY' TO '25
 105
  106
                                      USING "mode con:
 108
                            WS_NUMR FRO
 109
 110
                            WS-NUMC012 FR
 111
                    PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
                    PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
 112
 113
                               CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
 114
 115
                                      TO WS-CHOICE
 116
                                  SS-CLS
 117
                                 SS-MENU
 118
                        EVALUATE TRUE
                             WHEN E-INCLUDE
  GC-AWORK/customer.cob/
```

You can scroll the source code window with cursor keys UP and DOWN, PG UP and PG DOWN or with mouse wheel or with mouse left click on the right scroll bar. Use cursor RIGHT and cursor LEFT to scroll horizontally,

In the upper right window corner there is a "button bar" where you can find some buttons (symbols):



when you hover over one of these commands, you get the corresponding command description (like a tooltip) displayed at the bottom left of the screen.

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2.1. Help Command

Type ? HELP command (key) or left click with mouse on the ? button:

```
COBGDB
                                 GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
                            10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 100
 101
 102
                PROCEDURE DIVISION.
103
                001-START.
                                             COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS
COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y
ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STA
 104
 105
 106
 107
                                            USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
 108
                      ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
 109
 110
                      ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
                      PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
 111
                      PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT

MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP

MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS *> WS-STATUS

MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
 112
 113
 114
 115
 116
                            DISPLAY SS-CLS
 117
                            ACCEPT SS-MENU
 118
 119
                            EVALUATE TRUE
 120
                                 WHEN E-INCLUDE
 /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

the HELP window is displayed

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
COBGDB
                              GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
 100
                         10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 101
               PROCEDURE DIVISION.
 102
 103
 104
                    SET ENVIRONMENT 'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS' TO 'Y
 10 COBGDB HELP
 10
                               COBGDB - Commands
 10
 10
     B - Breakpoint: toggles the breakpoint at the current selected line
                                                                                             ATU
 10
          (can also be done with the mouse).
 11
 11
          is encountered.
       - Cursor or Continue: runs the program until it reaches the selected line.
 11
     \mathbf{C}
 11
 11
          Jump: runs the program until it reaches the specified line.
Next: runs the program until the next line but does not enter
 11
 11
 117
                         ACCEPT SS-MENU
 118
  119
                         EVALUATE TRUE
  120
                              WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC
      -AWORK/customer.cob
```

scroll the Help window with cursor keys UP and DOWN or mouse wheel.

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Use ESC or Enter or left click to exit from this HELP window and return to debugging session.

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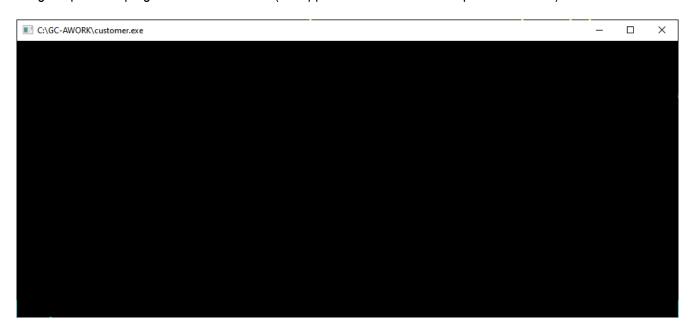
2.2. Run Command

To start executing the program and the debugging session from first program statement you always must use the "R" command (key) or left click with mouse on the

Run button

```
П
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                              GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 COBGDB
  100
  102
                  PROCEDURE DIVISION.
 103
                  001-START.
                                               'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS' TO 'Y'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  104
  105
  106
                                  "SYSTEM"
  107
  108
                        ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  109
  110
  111
                        PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
                        PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
  112
  113
                                     "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS *> WS-STATUS
  114
                             MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
  115
                              DISPLAY SS-CLS
  116
  117
                              ACCEPT SS-MENU
  118
                              EVALUATE TRUE
  119
  120
                                   WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

cobgdb opens the program terminal window (the application will run in this separate window.).



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go back to the COBGDB screen, and you see a green symbol on the left of statement where initial B Breakpoint is present (in our example is at line 103 B> 103):

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                             GNUCOBOL GDB Interpreter
10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
COBGDB
  100
  101
  102
 103
                                              'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
JSING "chcp 437" WS-ST
  104
  105
  106
  107
                                                     "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  108
  109
  110
                                WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  111
                       PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
  112
                                     MENU" TO WS-OP
CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
  113
  114
  115
                                             TO WS-CHOICE
  116
                                       SS-CLS
                             ACCEPT SS-MENU
  118
  119
                             EVALUATE TRUE
                                  WHEN E-INCLUDE
      -AWORK/customer.cob
```

From that moment on, you can use all the commands (keys) or corresponding buttons to "animate" and debug the application, example: "**S**" (Step), "**N**" (Next) and "**G**" (Go) and so on.

During the source code animation, the debugger automatically shows some pop-up windows with variables content from the line in execution.

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2.3. Step Command

Proceed with **S** (Step) command or left click with mouse the

↓ button:.

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
COBGDB
                                   GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  100
                              10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  101
  102
 >103
  104
                                                COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
                                              COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS TO Y
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  105
  106
  107
  108
                        ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
  109
                        ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  110
                       PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS *> WS-STATUS
  111
  112
  113
  114
                             MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
  115
                             DISPLAY SS-CLS
  116
                                       SS-MENU
  117
  118
  119
                             EVALUATE TRUE
  120
                                   WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

the green symbol now is on the following line 104:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                                GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
COBGDB
  100
                           10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 101
 102
 103
                001-START.
 >104
                                                                          TO Y
                                          'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
 105
 106
 107
 108
                     ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
 109
 110
                     PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
 111
                     PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
 112
 113
                                 "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS *> WS-STATUS
 114
 115
                                 SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
 116
                           DISPLAY SS-CLS
 117
                           ACCEPT SS-MENU
 118
 119
                           EVALUATE TRUE
 120
                                WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
Debugging
                      - File: "COBGDB-GnuCOBOL-DEBUGGER-V04-20240401.odt" -
```

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Now you can proceed with S command or N command or as an example:

- Scroll with cursor down to select line 116 of Procedure Division and type "B" (to set a Breakpoint), (you also can simply click with mouse left button on the 116 row number)
- The application displays a **"B"** on the left of the line (type B again or re-click when you want to delete the Breakpoint, not do that at this moment)

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
COBGDB
                                   GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  100
                             10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  101
  102
                 001-START.
 103
                                              'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
 104
  105
  106
                                                       chcp 437"
  107
                                              USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  108
                        ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  109
  110
                       PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
  111
                       PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT

MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP

MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS

MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
  112
  113
114
  115
                                       SS-CLS
  116
                             ACCEPT SS-MENU
  117
  118
                             EVALUATE TRUE
                                  WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
reakpoint
```

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2.4. Go Command

Type **G** (Go) or left click with mouse the button to execute the program until a B Breakpoint is detected: the system reach the second breakpoint at line 116 and displays a green symbol to the left of the line to be executed, see following screen:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                                                                                                              COBGDB
                                    GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  100
                              10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  101
  102
                  001-START.
  103
  104
                                                 'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS' TO
                                                'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS TO Y
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  105
  106
  108
                        ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
ACCEPT WS_NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  109
  110
  111
                        PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
                        PERFORM 007 OF EN TIEES

PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT

MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP

MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
                                                                                      WS-STATUS-
  112
  113
                                                                                       'CHOOSE AN OPTION"
  114
  115
                                               TO WS-CHOICE
  116
                              ACCEPT SS-MENU
  117
                                                                                     WS-MODULE
  118
                                                                                                         MENU"
                              EVALUATE TRUE
  119
                                                                                       CUSTOMERS -
                                    WHEN E-INCLUDE
   GC-AWORK/customer.cob
ebugging
```

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2.5. Show Command

typing the 'H' command (key) allows you to view the variables on the highlighted line.

```
■ D:\codigo_C\cobgdb2\cobgdb.exe
                                                                                                    COBGDB
                                 GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
                           10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  102
  103
  104
                001-START.
  105
                                           'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
  106
  107
  108
  109
             Show Line Variables-
  110
  111
  112
               Implicit FILLER:
              -Implicit FILLER:
-Implicit FILLER:
  113
  114
                                                                                                ENU"
  115
              -Implicit FILLER:
               -SS<sup>-</sup>STATUS: "
-Implicit FILLER: "
  116
  117
  118
  119
                           ACCEPT SS-MENU
  120
                           EVALUATE TRU
                                                                             WS-STATUS
                                                                             "CHOOSE AN OPTION"
  121
                                WHEN E-INCLUDE
                                      PERFORM 002-INCLUDE THRU 002
  /codigo_C/cobgdb2/customer.cob
    Edit variable
```

Note: to display the content of variables you can also click with right mouse button on a source line, example click with right mouse button on line 114 will execute the H command on that line and give you:

```
■ D:\codigo_C\cobgdb2\cobgdb.exe
COBGDB
                                GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  102
                          10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  103
  104
                001-START.
                                          'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
  106
                     SET ENVIRONMENT
SET ENVIRONMENT
  107
  108
  109
            Show Line Variables
  110
                                                                                              -STATI
  111
                              CHOOSE AN OPTION
               WS-STATUS:
  112
113
                     PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
                     PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
  114
  115
  116
                                                         TO WS-STATUS
  117
                                          TO WS-CHOICE
                          DISPLAY SS-CLS
  118
  119
                          ACCEPT SS-MENU
  120
                          EVALUATE
                                                                           NS-STATUS-
                                                                           "CHOOSE AN OPTION"
  121
                               WHEN E-INCLUDE
                                     PERFORM 002-INCLUDE THRU 002
 :/codigo_C/cobgdb2/customer.cob
    Edit variable
```

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Scroll with cursor key UP and DOWN (or with mouse wheel). The key **E** can be used to edit the content of the highlighted variable.

```
D:\codigo C\cobqdb2\cobqdb.exe
                                                                                                   COBGDB
                                GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  102
                           10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  103
  104
                PROCEDURE DIVISION.
  105
                001-START.
                     SET ENVIRONMENT 'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
SET ENVIRONMENT 'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
SET ENVIRONMENT 'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
  106
  107
  108
  109
            -Edit Variable-
  110
                -STATUS: Example of variable editing
  111
                                                                                              ENU"
  112
113
                     PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
                     PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
  114
  115
  116
                                                           TO WS-STATUS
  117
                                           TO WS-CHOICE
  118
                                     SS-CLS
                           ACCEPT SS-MENU
  119
  120
                           EVALUATE
                                                                            NS-STATUS
                                                                            "CHOOSE AN OPTION"
                                WHEN E-INCLUDE
  121
                                     PERFORM 002-INCLUDE THRU 002
  122
 :/codigo_C/cobgdb2/customer.cob
```

Resulting:

```
■ D:\codigo_C\cobgdb2\cobgdb.exe
                            GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 COBGDB
  102
  103
  104
                 PROCEDURE DIVISION.
                 001-START.
 105
                                            'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
  106
  107
  108
  109
             Show Line Variables
  110
  111
                WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing
  112
                      PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
  113
  114
  115
                                                             TO WS-STATUS
  116
  117
                                                 WS-CHOICE
  118
                            DISPLAY SS-CLS
  119
                            ACCEPT SS-MENU
  120
                                                                                WS-STATUS-
  121
122
                                 WHEN E-INCLUDE
                                                                                "CHOOSE AN OPTION"
                                       PERFORM 002-INCLUDE THRU 002
  /codigo_C/cobgdb2/customer.cob
    Edit variable
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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2.6. Variable Command

Type the **V** command (key) to display the list of all program variables:

```
Debugging

COBGDB - (R) return (ENTER) expand/contract (E) edit var

REJURN-CODE:

HFILE1 Record:

+WS-MODULE: "CUSTOMERS - MENU

+WS-CHOICE:

"HS-STAT: "99"

+WS-ERROR: "

+WS_NUMR: "024"

+WS-NUMC012: "080"

+BACK-COLOR: "6"

+WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing "

+WS-ERRMSG: "

+SS-CLS: "CUSTOMERS - CONSULT ESC TO EXIT "

+SS-MENU: "1 - INCLUDE2 - CONSULT3 - UPDATE4 - DELETEX - EXITCHOICE: 2"

+SS-ERROR: "

+COB-CRT-STATUS: "2005"
```

2.6.1. Enter subCommand

Scroll with cursor key UP and DOWN (or with mouse wheel) in this list to the variable WS-MODULE and type Enter: the application opens and displays its subfields WS-MODULE and WS-OP

```
COBGDB - (R)return (ENTER)expand/contract (E)edit var

RETURN-CODE: 0
+FILE1 Record:

WS-MODULE: "CUSTOMERS - MENU

WS-OP: "MENU
+WS-CHOICE: "
+FS-STAT: "99"
+WS-ERROR: ""
+WS-NUMC012: "080"
+BACK-COLOR: "1"
+FRONT-COLOR: "6"
+WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing "
+WS-ERRMSG: "
+SS-CLS: " CUSTOMERS - CONSULT ESC TO EXIT "
+SS-MENU: "1 - INCLUDE2 - CONSULT3 - UPDATE4 - DELETEX - EXITCHOICE: 2"
+SS-ERROR: "
+COB-CRT-STATUS: "2005"
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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select WS-MODULE subfield

```
COBGDB - (R) return (ENTER) expand/contract (E) edit var

RETURN-CODE: 0

+FILE1 Record:

-WS-MODULE: "CUSTOMERS - MENU "

WS-MODULE: "CUSTOMERS - MENU "

WS-OP: "MENU "

+WS-CHOICE: "

+FS-STAT: "99"

+WS-ERROR: "

+WS-NUMC012: "080"

+BACK-COLOR: "1"

+FRONT-COLOR: "6"

+WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing "

+WS-ERRMSG: "

+SS-CLS: " CUSTOMERS - CONSULT ESC TO EXIT "

+SS-MENU: "1 - INCLUDE2 - CONSULT3 - UPDATE4 - DELETEX - EXITCHOICE: 2"

+SS-RECORD-SCREEN: "PHONE: NAME:

+SS-ERROR: "

+COB-CRT-STATUS: "2005"
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
GC-901	GC-XXXXXX	Author: Eugenio Di Lorenzo	19	

2.6.2. Edit subCommand

Now you can select WS-MODULE subfield whit cursor DOWN or mouse wheel and type "**E**" (Edit) COBGDB shows a Edit Variable window:

```
III D:\codigo C\cobqdb2\cobqdb.exe
 COBGDB - (R)return (ENTER)expand/contract (E)edit var
 RETURN-CODE: 0
+FILE1 Record: "
-WS-MODULE: "CUSTOMERS - MENU
               <sub>「</sub>Edit Variable
                 WS-MODULE: CUSTOMERS -
 +WS-CHOI
 +FS-STAT: "99"
 +WS-ERROR: " "
+WS_NUMR: "024"
 +WS_NUMR: 024
+WS-NUMC012: "080"
+BACK-COLOR: "1"
+FRONT-COLOR: "6"
+WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing
 +WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing "
+WS-ERRMSG: "
+SS-CLS: " CUSTOMERS - CONSULT ESC TO EXIT
+SS-MENU: "1 - INCLUDE2 - CONSULT3 - UPDATE4 - DELETEX - EXITCHOICE: 2"
 +SS-RECORD-SCREEN:
+SS-ERROR: "
                                     PHONE:
                                                                       NAME:
 +COB-CRT-STATUS: "2005"
Debugging
```

Change "CUSTOMERS" to "TEST" and type Enter to change the value (use ESC to exit without changes):

```
COBGDB - (R) return (ENTER) expand/contract (E) edit var

RETURN-CODE: 0

+FILE1 Record: "
-WS-MODULE: "CUSTOMERS - MENU "

WS-MODULE: "Edit Variable—
WS-OP: WS-OP: WS-OP: WS-MODULE: TEST - MENU

+WS-CHOI

+FS-STAT: "99"
+WS-ERROR: ""
+WS-NUMR: "024"
+WS-NUMC012: "080"
+BACK-COLOR: "1"
+FRONT-COLOR: "6"
+WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing "
+WS-ERRMSG: "
+SS-CLS: " CUSTOMERS - CONSULT ESC TO EXIT "
+SS-MENU: "1 - INCLUDE2 - CONSULT3 - UPDATE4 - DELETEX - EXITCHOICE: 2"
+SS-ERROR: "
+COB-CRT-STATUS: "2005"
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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2.6.3. Return subCommand

WS-Module has new value.

Now type "**R**" (Return) to go back to the debugging session:

```
COBGDB - (R) return (ENTER) expand/contract (E) edit var

RETURN-CODE: 0
+FILE1 Record: "
-WS-MODULE: "TEST - MENU "
WS-MODULE: "TEST - MENU "
+WS-CHOICE: "
+FS-STAT: "99"
+WS-ERROR: "
+WS-NUMR: "024"
+WS-NUMR: "024"
+WS-NUMC012: "080"
+BACK-COLOR: "1"
+FRONT-COLOR: "6"
+WS-STATUS: "Example of variable editing "
+WS-CRRMSG: "
+SS-CLS: " CUSTOMERS - CONSULT ESC TO EXIT "
+SS-MENU: "1 - INCLUDE2 - CONSULT3 - UPDATE4 - DELETEX - EXITCHOICE: 2"
+SS-RECORD-SCREEN: " PHONE: NAME:
+SS-ERROR: "
+COB-CRT-STATUS: "2005"
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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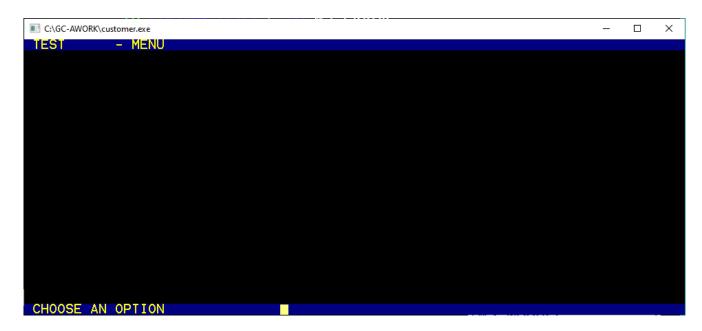
2.7. Step Command

now you are back in the main debugging window:

Type **S** (Step) command or left click with mouse the button to execute the DISPLAY statement at line 116

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
COBGDB
                                 GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
  100
                           10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  101
  102
                PROCEDURE DIVISION.
 103
                001-START.
                                                                             WS-MODULE
                                            'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
                                                                                              MENU"
  104
                                                                              TEST
  105
                                             ESCDELAY'
  106
                                           USING "chcp 437"
USING "mode con:
  107
                      *>CALL SYSTEM"
  108
                                                                            -WS-STATUS-
"CHOOSE AN OPTION"
  109
                      ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES
  110
                      ACCEPT WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *>
                      PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
  111
                      PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
  112
  113
                                  "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
AY SS-CLS
  114
  115
 116
  117
                                     SS-MENU
  118
  119
                           EVALUATE TRUE
  120
                                WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

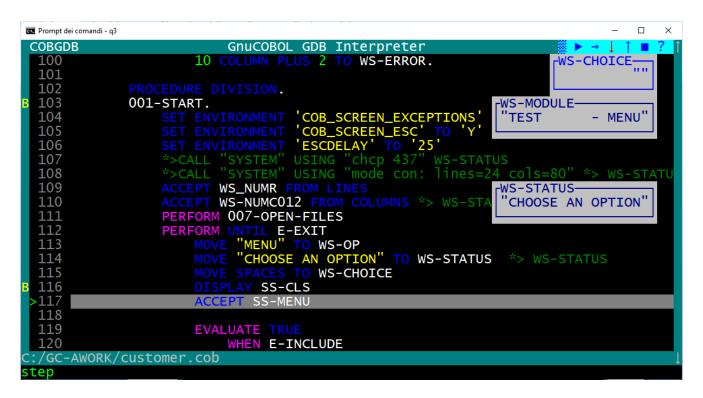
in the other application window you can see the result of DISPLAY statement



go back to debugging window and now the ACCEPT statement will be executed with S command

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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Type **S** (Step) command or left click with mouse the button again to execute the ACCEPT statement at line 117:



```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                                 GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
COBGDB
  100
                            10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
  101
                 PROCEDURE DIVISION.
  102
 103
                 001-START.
                                           'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS' TO 'Y'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  104
  105
  106
                      *>CALL "SYSTEM"
*>CALL "SYSTEM"
  107
  108
                      *>CALL
                               WS_NUMR FROM LINE
  109
                               WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  110
                      PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
  111
                      PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
  112
  113
                                  "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS *> WS-STATUS
  114
  115
                                  SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
  116
                                      SS-CLS
  117
  118
  119
                            EVALUATE TRUE
                                 WHEN E-INCLUDE
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
                      - File: "COBGDB-GnuCOBOL-DEBUGGER-V04-20240401.odt" -
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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The application is running in a separate window.

The 'Accept' command switches the focus to application windows.

After a user action on application screen (ex type the "X" choice and Enter) it is necessary to click again on the 'debugger' window to continue debugging.



go back to debugger window: the ACCEPT statement has been executed:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                                                                                                          П
                             GNUCOBOL GDB Interpreter
10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 COBGDB
  100
  101
  102
                 PROCEDURE DIVISION.
 103
                 001-START.
                                              'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS' TO 'Y'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STAT
  104
  105
  106
                                 "SYSTEM"
"SYSTEM"
  107
                        *>CALL
  108
                                                                                           WS-CHOICE "x"
  109
                       ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINE
                                 WS-NUMC012 FROM COLUMNS *> WS-STATUS
  110
  111
                       PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES
                       PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT
MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP
  112
  113
                                    "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS *> WS-STATUS
  114
                                              TO WS-CHOICE
  115
  116
                                        SS-CLS
                             ACCEPT SS-MENU
  118
  119
                                  WHEN E-INCLUDE
   GC-AWORK/customer.cob
  bugging
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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2.8. Pop-up Variable windows

During a debugging session COBGDB shows variable content. Blue frame and values: variables of executing cobol statement Black frame and values: variables of last executed cobol statement.

Sample:

```
COBGDB

Continue after 0.5 seconds

continue.

DisplayCoverEx. exit.

266

267

TetraminoDisplay.

perform varying wRow from 1 by 1 until wRow > 4

269

perform varying wRow from 1 by 1 until wCol > 4

269

270

compute wLinD = wBaseLol + wCol

if wBlockEle (wRow wCol) = 'X'

B)273

display wChar at line wLinD column wColD BCO blue FCO wCol

274

end-if

end-perform
end-perform
end-perform
continue.

275

TetraminoDisplayEx. exit.

280

TetraminoSet wColD

and wColD

and wColD

but FCO wCol

w
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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2.9. File Command

To show this command we use following sample:

cobgdb sample.cbl subsample.cbl subsubsample.cbl -x -lpdcurses

where sample.cbl is the main program; it calls
--> subsample.cbl; it calls
--> subsubsample.cbl

Source code is at https://github.com/marcsosduma/cobgdb/tree/main/resources. This will create a single sample.exe executable.

This example shows that when you need to debug only subsample.cbl or only subsubsample.cbl you need to execute COBGDB with all three programs.

COBGDB sets the B breakpoint at first executable statement of first program "sample.cbl". here use the R Run command to start the debugging session.

```
Prompt dei comandi - q4
                                                                                                                 COBGDB
                                     GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
                     WS-NUMERIC PIC 9(2) VALUE
  5
6
7
8
9
                 01 WS-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2) VALUE -123.45.
                 01 WS-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2) VALUE 123.45.
01 WS-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6) VALUE 'ABCDEF'.
01 WS-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5) VALUE 'A121$'.
  10
                 01 WS-GROUP.
  11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
                          05 WS-GROUP-NUMERIC PIC 9(2) VALUE 45.
                          05 WS-GROUP-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2) VALUE -123.45.
                          05 WS-GROUP-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2) VALUE 123.45.
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6) VALUE 'ABCDEF'.
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5) VALUE 'A121$'.
                          CHECK PIC 9(2).
88 WS-CHECK-LITTLE VALUES ARE 50 THRU 99.
                 01 WS-CHECK PI
                          88 WS-CHECK-BIG VALUES ARE 00 THRU 49.
  19
 20
21
                                                 USING BY CONTENT WS-GROUP
  22
23
24
                       END-CALL.
DISPLAY "World"
                       STOP RUN.
 :/GC-AWORK/sample.cbl
bebugging
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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Now you can type the **F File** command and you will have the "Source Files" window. In this sample we select the second program in the list (subsample.cbl) and type Enter.

```
Prompt dei comandi - q4
                                                                                                                                                    GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter PIC 9(2) VALUE 45.
 COBGDB
                            WS-NUMERIC PIC
   5
6
7
8
                      01 WS-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2) VALUE -123.45.
01 WS-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2) VALUE 123.45.
01 WS-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6) VALUE 'ABCDEF'.
01 WS-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5) VALUE 'A121$'.
   10
                 -Source Files
   \overline{11}
                 C:/GC-AWORK/sample.cbl
  12
13
14
15
16
                                                                                                                                            .45.
.45.
                 C:/GC-AWORK/subsubsample.cbl
  17
18
19
20
21
22
23
                              END-CALL.
DISPLAY "World"
                               STOP RUN.
   /GC-AWORK/sample.cbl
Debugging
```

COBGDB shows the selected program source code where in this sample we type a B command at line 14.

```
Prompt dei comandi - q4
                                                                                                                   GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
COBGDB
                 PROGRAM-ID. subsample. ENVIRONMENT DIVISION.
 2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
                 01 WS-GROUP.
                          05 WS-GROUP-NUMERIC PIC 9(2).
                          05 WS-GROUP-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2).
05 WS-GROUP-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2).
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6).
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5).
  11
  12
  13
                                               USING WS-GROUP.
  14
                        DISPLAY WS-GROUP-ALPHABETION
  15
                        CALL 'subsubsample' USING BY CONTENT WS-GROUP
  16
                        END-CALL.
  17
18
                 END PROGRAM subsample.
 :/GC-AWORK/subsample.cbl
preakpoint
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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now we type the F command again, then select the "sample.cbl" program and press Enter

```
П
Prompt dei comandi - q4
COBGDB
                               GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
              IDENTIFICATION DIVISION. PROGRAM-ID. subsample.
 2
 4
 5
6
7
8
              WORKING-STORAGE SECTION.
          Source Files
          C:/GC-AWORK/subsample.cbl
 9
          C:/GC-AWORK/subsubsample.cbl
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 :/GC-AWORK/subsample.cbl
```

now we are back to the sample.cbl program to continue the debugging session as we need.

```
Prompt dei comandi - q4
COBGDB
                                              GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
                     01 WS-NUMERIC PIC 9(2) VALUE 45.
01 WS-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2) VALUE -123.45.
01 WS-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2) VALUE 123.45.
01 WS-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6) VALUE 'ABCDEF'.
01 WS-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5) VALUE 'A121$'.
  6
  8
  9
  10
                     01 WS-GROUP.
                                 05 WS-GROUP-NUMERIC PIC 9(2) VALUE 45.
05 WS-GROUP-SIGNED-DECIMAL PIC S9(3)V9(2) VALUE -123.45.
  11
  12
13
                                05 WS-GROUP-UNSIGNED-DECIMAL PIC 9(3)V9(2) VALUE 123.45.
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHABETIC PIC A(6) VALUE 'ABCDEF'.
05 WS-GROUP-ALPHANUMERIC PIC X(5) VALUE 'A121$'.
  14
15
                                 CHECK PIC 9(2).
88 WS-CHECK-LITTLE VALUES ARE 50 THRU 99.
  16
                     01 WS-CHECK
  17
  18
                                 88 WS-CHECK-BIG VALUES ARE 00 THRU 49.
  19
 >20
21
22
23
24
                             CALL SEND-CALL.
END-CALL.
"World"
                             CALL 'subsample'
                                                            USING BY CONTENT WS-GROUP
 :/GC-AWORK/sample.cbl
Debugging
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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2.10. Run Command

If you click the Run command during a debug session you will receive a confirmation request, because Yes will restart a new the debugging session from first Procedure Division executable statement:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q3
                                                                                                  COBGDB
                                GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
                                                                                               ↑ ■ ?
                                                                                       ▶ →
 100
                           10 COLUMN PLUS 2 TO WS-ERROR.
 101
 102
 103
                001-START.
                                          'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
 104
 105
 106
 107
 108
              -Message-
 109
               Would you like to "Run<u>" the program again</u> ? (= Restart)
 110
                                             Yes
 111
                     PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT

MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP

MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS-STATUS
 112
 113
 114
 115
                          MOVE SPACES TO WS-CHOICE
                                                                                   -WS-NUMC012-
 116
                                     SS-CLS
                                                                                                  0
 117
                           ACCEPT SS-MENU
 118
                                                                                       -WS_NUMR-
 119
                           EVALUATE TRUE
                                                                                                 25
                                WHEN E-INCLUDE
  120
  /GC-AWORK/customer.cob
```

Note: if program has DECLARATIVES then the first automatic B Breakpoint will be settled at first executable PROCEDURE DIVISION statement that is the one after END DECLARATIVES, see following sample:

```
Prompt dei comandi - q1
COBGDB
                            GnuCOBOL GDB Interpreter
 310
                           TO w-flag
 311
             ELSE
                MOVE "N " TO w-flag
 312
 313
             END-IF
 314
        ELSE
             DISPLAY "Error " w-fsRep " on REPORT FILE "
 315
 316
 317
        END-IF.
 318 ex-err-Rep-x. EXIT
 319
 320
 321
 322
323
 324
      MAIN1 SECTION.
 325
      MAIN-LOOP.
 326
        perform InitialSettings thru InitialSettingsEx
 327
 328
        PERFORM UNTIL WCRT-STATUS = K-ESCAPE
 329
             DISPLAY screen-menu
                      screen-menu
  ^\primeGC-AWORK^\primeMASTER.cob
ebugging
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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2.11. Quit Command

To close the debug session use the **Q** Quit command or left click with mouse the **b**utton

```
Prompt dei comandi
                                                                                                                                           ×
  103
                       001-START.
                                                            'COB_SCREEN_EXCEPTIONS' TO 'Y'
'COB_SCREEN_ESC' TO 'Y'
'ESCDELAY' TO '25'
USING "chcp 437" WS-STATUS
USING "mode con: lines=24 cols=80" *> WS-STATU
  104
  105
  106
  107
  108
                              ACCEPT WS_NUMR FROM LINES

ACCEPT WS_NUMCO12 FROM COLUMNS *> WS_STAT

PERFORM 007-OPEN-FILES

PERFORM UNTIL E-EXIT

MOVE "MENU" TO WS-OP

MOVE "CHOOSE AN OPTION" TO WS_STATUS
  109
  110
  111
  112
  113
  114
  115
                                                            TO WS-CHOICE
                                                                                                                       -WS-NUMC012-
                                      DISPLAY SS-CLS
                                                                                                                                            0
  116
                                      ACCEPT SS-MENU
  117
  118
                                      EVALUATE TRUE
WHEN E-INCLUDE
  119
  120
  :/GC-AWORK/customer.cob
The end of the COBGDB execution.
C:\GC-AWORK>
```

DOCUMENT CODE	MODULE: xxxxxxxxxx	USING COBGDB FOR GnuCOBOL	PAGE	GnuCOBOL
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3. Document Change Log

CHANGE LOG

Version1 of 2023.12.12.

First release

. Version2 of 2023.12.23.

Step by Step sample of use is added Some minor changes

. Version3 of 2024.0218.

Restructured showing new cobgdb screens and features

. Version4 of 2024.0401.

Allow variable modification when viewing the variable from a line of code

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Technical info